



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LAREDO BUSINESSWOMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR
TRAFFICKING IN MILLIONS WORTH OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS**

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 62-year-old Chongcha Song Pence, owner of Casa Unica in Laredo, Texas, was sentenced this week in Del Rio to 27 months in federal prison followed by three years of supervised release for trafficking in counterfeit goods. In addition to the prison term, United States District William Wayne Justice ordered that Pence pay \$71,000 in restitution.

Appearing before U.S. Magistrate Victor Garcia in Del Rio on April 25, 2006, Pence pleaded guilty to trafficking in counterfeit goods (Case # DR-06-CR102). While awaiting sentencing, Pence was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Laredo on January 13, 2006, for additional trafficking in counterfeit goods (Case # DR06-CR-874). On February 8, 2007, Pence pleaded guilty to the additional trafficking in counterfeit goods charge. Pence's 27-month prison term was based on both charges.

Agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement executed two search warrants at her Laredo business—one on January 9, 2006, and one on September 6, 2006. On both occasions agents seized purses, watches, sunglasses, luggage, wallets and hats as well as other counterfeit items. Over the course of the investigation, agents seized over 100,000 counterfeit goods with a total manufactured suggested retail value of approximately \$19 million. Agents also seized approximately \$100,000 cash from Pence's bank accounts.

Assistant United States Attorney Robert Cadena prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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